

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The specification is amended herein to use the terms "point-to-point", "point-to-multipoint", and "multipoint-to-point" in place of "point to point", "point to multi point", and "multi point to point", respectively.

Claim 1 is canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter.

Claim 2 is amended herein for formal reasons. As these changes are not made to overcome art, Applicants respectfully submit that they should not be interpreted in a limiting fashion.

Figures 1 and 2 are amended herein to include legends identifying them as prior art.

Figure 3 is amended herein to replace "Reverss" with "Reverse".

No new matter has been added. Claims 1-4 are pending in the application.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to as containing informalities. In particular, Figures 1 and 2 are objected to as lacking legends identifying them as prior art, and Figure 3 is objected to as including the legend "Reverss".

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Figures 1 and 2 are amended herein to include legends identifying them as prior art. Figure 3 is amended herein to replace "Reverss" with "Reverse".

Applicants believe the amendments overcome the objection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The specification is objected to as including informalities, in particular the terms "point to point" and "multi point to point".

Applicants respectfully traverse the objection. The specification is amended herein to use the terms "point-to-point" and "multipoint-to-point" instead.

Applicants believe the amendments overcome the objection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 are objected to as containing informalities, in particular for reciting the terms "multi point to point" and "loop-backing".

Applicants respectfully traverse the objection. Claim 1 is canceled herein, rendering that portion of the rejection moot. Claim 2 is amended herein to recite "multipoint-to-point" and "looping back".

Applicants believe the amendments overcome the objection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. US 2002/0181485 to Cao et al. (hereinafter "Cao"), in view of Admitted Prior Art "A Path Protection/Restoration Mechanism for MPLS Networks" by Huang et al. (hereinafter APA). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is canceled herein, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Cao in view of APA, further in view of Wu (U.S. Patent No. 5,442,623). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In the present invention according to claim 2, a backup Label Switched Path (LSP) is set. The backup LSP includes a point-to-multipoint reverse anycast tree. When a failure is sensed, the traffic stream is transferred through the reverse anycast tree. An exemplary method for doing so is disclosed at page 6, lines 12-20 of the specification of the present invention.

The rejection relies upon APA to disclose an arrangement utilizing a reverse anycast tree. However, Applicants find no such disclosure in APA.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that the rejection refers to number sections, such as "section 2.1, first paragraph, lines 5-11". However, Applicants note that the references to Huang as APA within the specification of the present application do not refer to section numbers, but rather are incorporated into the specification proper. Moreover, Applicants find no other documents cited on the Form PTO-892 attached to the Office action that appear to correspond with such section numbers. If a particular portion of the specification or some other document is meant to be referred to by the references to section number, Applicants respectfully request that the document be identified, and/or cited on Form PTO-892.

However, with regard to APA within the specification of the present invention, Applicants respectfully point out that APA describes an arrangement wherein when a failure occurs, a FIS (fault indication signal) is transferred to a PSL (path switching LSR (label switching router)) through a backup LSP (label switched path), the LSP being configured as a reverse multicast tree.

As noted in the specification, for example at page 4, lines 3-18, with such a process there is the possibility of a volume of packet loss. In addition, if the PSL is not the ingress LSR, the LSP between the ingress LSR and the PSL cannot be protected.

Applicants find no disclosure or suggestion within APA of an arrangement utilizing a reverse anycast tree as in the present invention according to claim 2. Similarly, neither Cao nor Wu disclose or suggest such an arrangement.

In addition, Applicants note that Wu is directed to a ring network. Applicants respectfully submit that this is very different from the arrangement of the present invention, and respectfully question whether teachings with regard to a ring network as in Wu can be considered to disclose or suggest features with respect to the present invention.

As the present invention according to claim 2 includes features neither disclosed nor suggested by Cao, APA, or Wu, alone or in combination, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 is not obvious from Cao in view of APA, further in view of Wu. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 2, and incorporate the limitations thereof. The remarks made above with regard to claim 2 apply equally to claims 3 and 4, and Applicants respectfully submit that separate arguments need not be presented in their support at this time. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

As all matters raised in the Office Action are now addressed, Applicants believe all pending claims likewise are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney of record, Curtis B. Hamre (Reg. No. 29,165) at (612) 336-4722.



Date: July 15, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Curtis B. Hamre
Curtis B. Hamre
Reg. No. 29,165
CBH/MLL

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

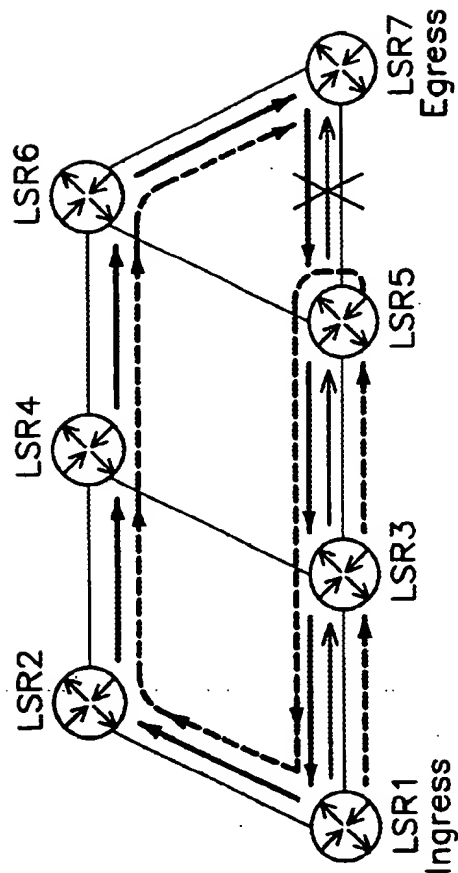
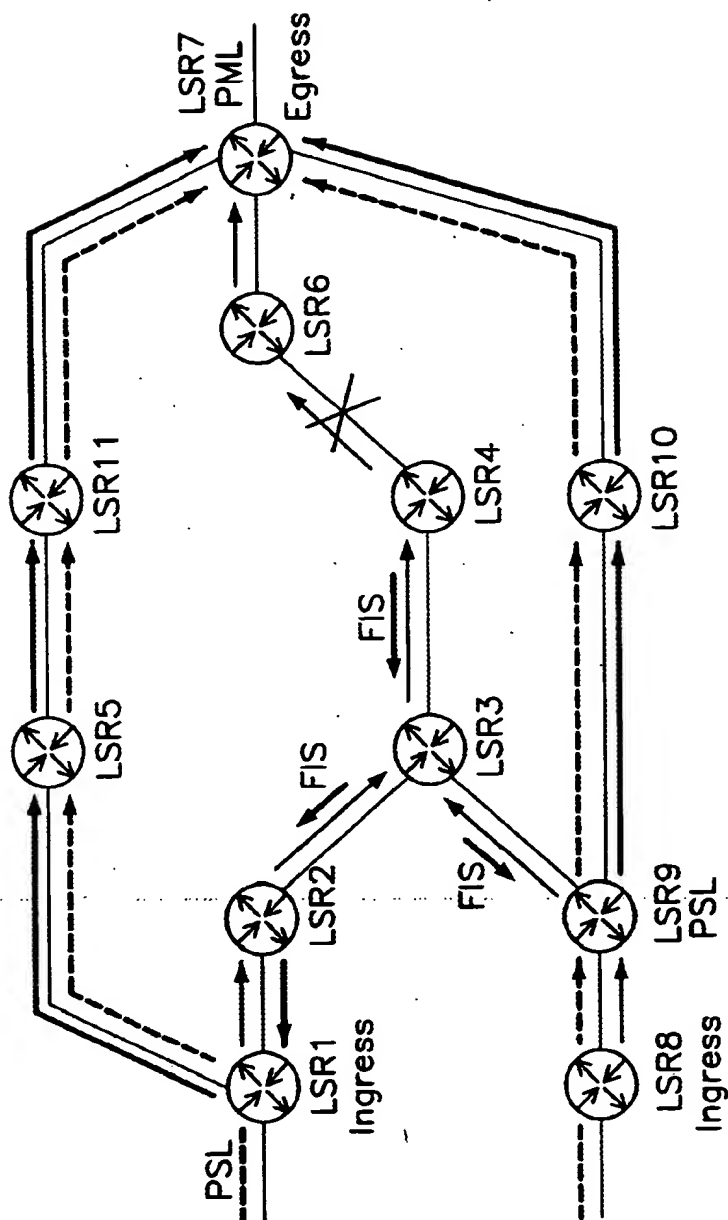


Fig.1
Prior Art



- Protected point-to-point LSP
- == Backup LSPs between PSL and PML
- - - Traffic flow after failure

Fig.2

Prior Art

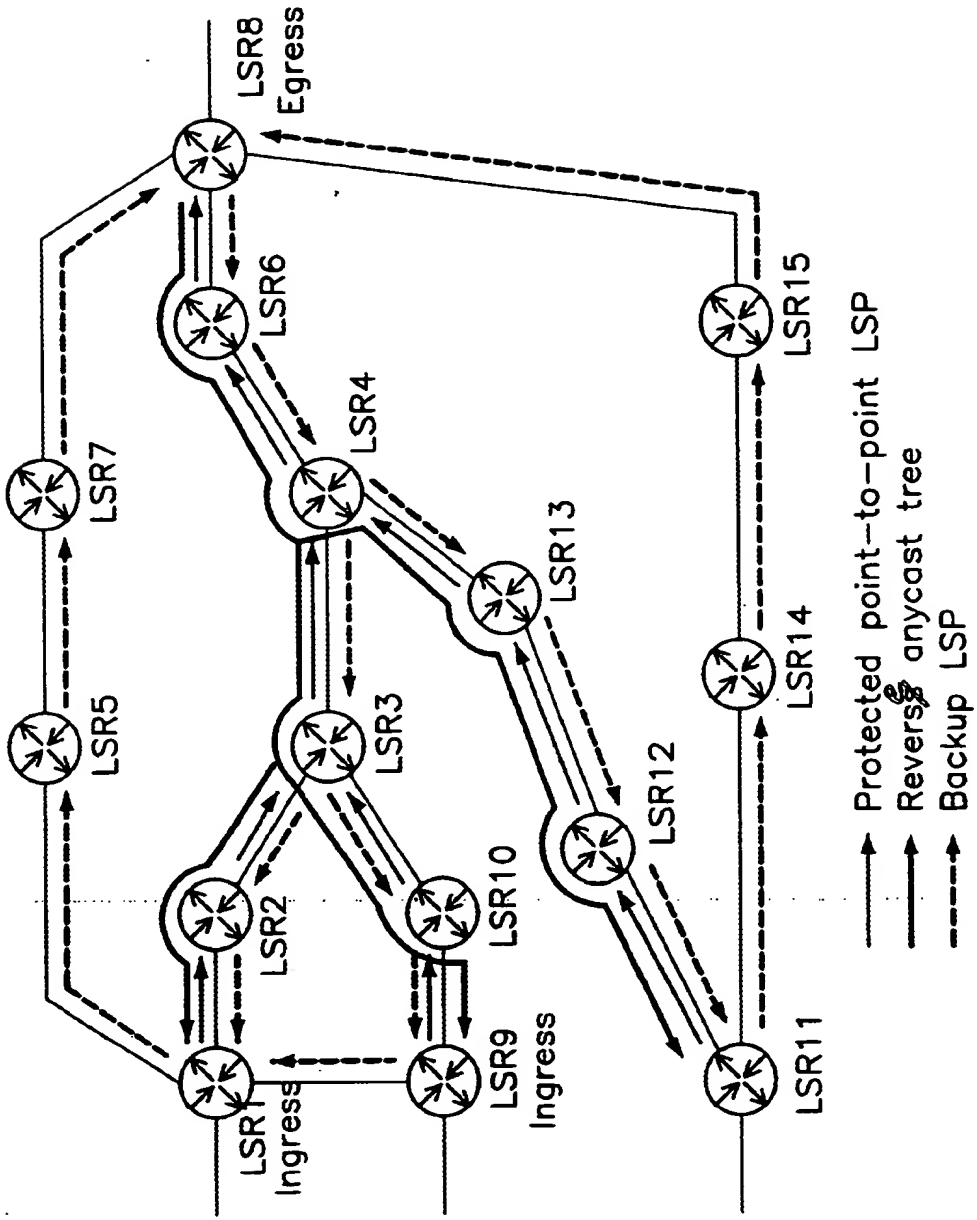


Fig.3